Farm Colonies and Outdoor Sports for Amelioration of the Feeble-Minded



Athletics is One of the Forms of Discipline Which Dr. Little is Introducing



Feeble-Minded "Boys" at Work in the Garden

Members of the Farm Colony Ploughing

Dr. "Squash" Little, Once Famous as an Athlete, Will Apply in Developing New and Great Institution at Letchworth Village Ideas Gleaned in His Youth on Farm and Football Field.

view who chances to be fatalistic in his the valley, "Is a spur of the Erie when one has heard Dr. Little present his pentry and repair shops. ideas as to the care of the mentally detheir lanky, loose-jointed, six-foot-and-more for entertainments and gymnast and made his mark in the football history for hand work and an attendants' house

regation of the feeble-minded and epileptic, represent an investment of \$3,000,-Letchworth, is the fruit of tally deficient in the schools of New York.

They interested some men in the probbrought to the attention of Governor fly of New Jersey, which was recently described in The Tribune as the Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde of heredity, turned the scale. When Governor Hughes saw the awful army of necessary attendants. stream of feeble-mindedness leading down from the Revolutionary soldier through dis- THE AVAILABLE APPROPRIATION. mal swamps of criminality and pauperism beside the fair line of high minded men and women descended from the same soldier

As a first step a commission was ap-The result of their labors was the pur- dormitories for the "improvable boys," the chase of more than two thousand acres of attendants' building, the kitchen and dinfarm and wood land in the cloves of the ing room, the laundry, power house, storethe Hudson, and the appropriation this it can be arranged, to have the dormitories year of more than \$457,000 for a begin- only one story high, as that is a more conning on the permanent buildings which venient height for administration as well as are to house the institution. There are for safety. It is expected that the plans perhaps a hundred inmates already living will be in readiness for the beginning of in houses which were on the farms com-Brising the estate and in inexpensive dormitories which have been erected. This number, however, is only sufficient to serve as an illustration of what the village is to be when the equipment for the three thousand inmates contemplated by First the machine climbs up the clove to the plans has been provided.

The domain over which "Squash" Little, as his fellow alumni affectionately style him, rules and for whose development he is responsible is a veritable little kingdom. The approach is not of the easiest. If you are going up from New York the journey is not without its tedious moments before West Haverstraw station is reached. The train of gloomy cars stops with a frequency that suggests a desire

AT LETCHWORTH'S SITE.

At last, however, the "journey's done," and you dismount at a railroad station whose without door or window on the side toward letics, which does not need the corroborathe street. Then you drive around the base tion he throws in in good measure in the At last, three miles or thereabouts from who was brought up in close contact with the station, the gateway to the future the soil. He uses picturesque expletives the best way of caring for the feeble-mind-Letchworth Village is reached. It is the such as "gods and little fishes!" and seems present home of the superintendent and to be known to every one in a familiar the south and west the two cloves which ever convince one that he was forty-two to segregate the feeble-minded as a means join in an elbow below the house. On the years old and no longer a candidate for the of protecting society and themselves, the southeast the notched profile of High Tor 'varsity. stands out bold and rugged against the sky. A haze half obscures the waters of the American Rhine flowing southward toward brow colony. Point No Point.

Then Mr. Little gets his blue prints and points out on them where the different greeting to the different "boys" as he them a range of movement that permits the groups of dormitories, the administration group, the store and power houses, the playgrounds, the athletic fields and the 21,- one, by the first name, and they respond contact with other colonies. 000,000-gallon reservoir are to be located. with a "How are you, Dr. Little?" and On this side of Minisceongo Creek are to perhaps open a discussion about the work however, it is necessary to begin to train be the dormitories for the "young and im- they are doing. This may be the polishing the feeble-minded when they are children. provable boys" less than sixteen years old. of a stove, or digging, or ploughing, ac- Some persons wonder why those who are Adjoining each dormitory, which is to accommodate seventy, will be a playfield, individual.
where they may indulge in baseball, football and what not in their recreation hours. in industrial work of some form. On the sonal interest in them." outside of the trembling curve, which shows where the creek ripples around the elbow in the clove, is the group of build- only heating apparatus it contains is a children, can be trained to do things betings for the infirm men, those who cannot small stove. This, one thinks, would make ter than if the education of which they

T'S got to be a live place-or bust!" three other groups of dormiteries and other this refers to Letchworth Village, buildings of a character to make them inand may, perhaps, be looked upon as dependent units, economically and socially, the motto chosen for it by C. S. Little, its and explains that these will house girls At least, that was the and women of the same description as the picturesque and quite characteristic way in boys and men. Away up in this valley the which he expressed himself a few days ago dam is being built, and here, putting his when asked for his views regarding this finger on the spots, Mr. Little shows where most interesting state institution. It will a couple of pends could be formed with seem an odd sort of motto to the student advantage to the appearance of the landof heredity from the biological point of scape. "Along this line," tracing through interpretations, or to the pessimist regard- which we shall get our supplies. On this ing the practicability of training the feeble-minded. Nevertheless, one feels that it fits ing plant and the power plant, and car-

These are interesting, and their seen, are each to consist of eight dormiconception can be traced to the fact that tories, a kitchen and dining room, a hall author was bred on a New Hampshire farm cises, a schoolhouse, an industrial building of Dartmouth. In them, football has dem- For the able bodied adults capable of doing the school building. For the infirm, however, there are to be no buildings, except vote in order to accomplish valuable work dormitories, and these will be limited in for the state is freshly illustrated in Letch- their capacity to fifty persons. There will worth Village. The institution for the seg- be no outside kitchen and dining room, back of West Haverstraw, which will ulti- be recognized the infirmities of the inmates

offices, the houses for the officers and the the labors of a group of women who some observation and quarantine building for years ago observed the numbers of men- the study and isolation of the newcomers. There will also be a scientific group, including a hospital and facilities for patholem, with the result that the subject was logical and other scientific work in connection with feeble-mindedness and epilepsy. Hughes. The chart of a feeble-minded fam- Altogether there will be about one hundred buildings in the vale of the Minisceongo comprising the village, for the housing of the three thousand inmates and the small

and his wholesome Quaker wife, the battle tion bills on the eve of his departure for Europe, the amount that was available for pointed to consider the whole subject. 000. This will provide for four of the eight house and machine shop. It is intended, if

> With all this detailed information at the fingers' ends, Mr. Little suggests a trip through his domain, and soon the automobile rolls up, for such a journey means the traversing of several miles of highways. the site of the dam for the reservoir. Men are busily engaged raising the concrete core and piling the earth upon either side

ecross the narrow valley. Then back down the narrow clove and around the elbow and up the right bank of the creek. The various sites are pointed out by Mr. Little, but somehow the imagination has difficulty in connecting them with the spots assigned on the blue print map. The map just filled the eye, but this vale is one of magnificent distances when compared with the landscape architect's compact design. While the machine speeds on its way

you cannot help being interested in the man who is pointing out the future structures, the athletic fields, the playgrounds and the water and sewer lines. He does general external appearance is that of a not look his age. With hat and coat off, small summer hotel, and the first floor of his bronzed face and broad shoulders tell which suggests internally a shed, being a story of love of outdoor life and athof Treason Hill, a sign beside the road in- form of good natured distribes against the forming you that on this little eminence occasional necessity for visiting New York Arnold and André perfected their terms for City. His philosophy marks him as a the transfer of West Point to the British. Yankee and his figures of speech as one overlooks the Hudson on the east and on way. No number of looks at him would happy way of caring for them. If we are after they leave school at the age of six-

> The machine rolls up in front of the big, white homestead which mothers the Dis-

"Hello, Ed," or "Hello, John," or "Hello," passes them. The "boys" are the feeblecording to the need and the capacity of the to be segregated should be trained to do

"For some reasons I would like it better to have only five hundred inmates," says Next to it, his finger indicates, is the group the Big Brother, "for then I could know character to be done here I wouldn't be for the adult men, who can use their hands them all individually. I could take a per-

dormitory and points out the fact that the early age, just as in the case of normal

it is expected to house in them.

This year, after Governor Dix had drawn his pen through sections of the appropriaconstruction work at the village was \$457,-

in the pitcher before taking a bath. Then he explains, and one sees the connection between his theories of caring for the feeble minded and his early training

on the New Hampshire farm. "This is to be one of the farm colonies," he says. "I believe the farm colony to be tution in working order. By that time we ed. It provides for a simple, wholesome life. It is a cheap, a very comfortable and farm colony provides the most economical and then sort them, putting those who are way in which to do it. It costs less to fitted for the farm colonies there and house and feed the inmates. It furnishes a healthful occupation for mind and body. It provides a most favorable environment somebody else, as the case may be, is his for their happiness and comfort. It gives have no doubt they are, this institution will development of whatever individuality they minded inmates. He knows them, every may possess, for it separates them from to organize as many farm colonies as possi-

"In order to make this plan a success, anything. I believe in doing something for the community of a constructive character, and if there were nothing of that There's got to be something going on where Then he leads the way into the one story I am. The feeble-minded, if taken at an perform any useful form of work. Across little impression upon the atmosphere of a are capable is postponed until the less pll- have "to be a live place—or bust." There and for similar institutions which may follow it.

or thirty beds, and exposed on top, two prefiminary training. You cannot get cases sides and one end to the wintry blasts of suitable for colony life without it. I be-January or February. One is reminded of lieve if I can train the boys until they the experiences of early youth in a New know our attitude toward them and know England farmhouse, when on a winter's our officers, they can be trusted in the morning it was necessary to break the ice farm colonies. They will then look upon

the institution as their home." The farsightedness of Dr. Little, the thorough manner in which he is laying his foundations, was shown in what he said

"It will take ten years to get the instiought to have a group of boys trained to a point where they would be ready to go out in a farm colony. If we get city teen, we will have to do what we can to train them until they are twenty years old, those who are not into the shops to do industrial work. If the figures of feeblemindedness are correctly estimated, and ! hardly make a dent. We will need half a dozen such institutions. I think we ought ble. This is not only the cheapest method of caring for these unfortunates, but it is better for the inmates. They will live a simple life, and have plenty of opportunity for individual life and good productive outdoor life. I would put in the farm colony the improvable boys who are sent to us The ideal way would be to have groups for the young and the infirm and put the able adults on the farms, but there are so many in the schools of New York of sixteen and upward who need to be cared for that we need an adult industrial group."

That is a part of what Dr. Little meant when he said Letchworth Village would from these three points of view for itself lieves in the old adage about "all work and football team again, being captain of the

ulum. Here is where his experience as a

football player enters his philosophy. Play is mighty stimulating and should help in the work of the institution. If the boy or girl is interested in his work and his play he will eliminate the need for discifurnishes an outlet for the energy of the

will be occasional matches of football, baseball, etc., in which the whole in

stitution will take an interest. "I want them to have their picnics and have opportunities to go fishing. All this will aid materially in solving the problem

by this time the automobile had depos its passengers at their starting point.

One of the kind of pienics in which Dr. Little is interested in providing for his wards is a "sugaring off" bee. In the part of New England from which he comes the making of maple sugar is one of the industries. He knew the opportunities for sport in a sugar camp, and when he discovered a grove of sugar maples on the site of Letchworth Village he knew how to make it contribute to the pleasure of the inmates. They have already tasted in a literal manner of the joys of boiling down

Dr. Little built up a successful institution for feeble-minded at Laconia in his vative state, which has gained for him a reputation for efficient and original methods among those who are interested in the problem of the feeble-minded.

This is the way one of the friends of Dr. or "Squash," Little has described the unosteniatious but aggressive superintendent of

"In his day in college the pld-fashioned pranks were much more in evidence than at the present come. Little was always in the middle of everything, and it took a fertile mind to suggest anything that he was not entirely ready for. He was graduated from Dartmouth in the class of '31. When he entered college he was a big husky, raw-boned country boy, straight from the farm. During the first two weeks of his college career he distinguished himself in the freshman-sophomore football rushes. The sophomores found it necessary to detail five or six men to take care of him, and they had their hands full. "He made the 'varsity football team



Interior of the Dormitory of a Farm Colony at Letchworth Village.
THIS ILLUSTRATES THE SIMPLICITY OF LIFE AND INEXPENSIVE CHARACTER OF BUILDINGS
REQUIRED FOR THIS METHOD OF CARING FOR THE FEEBLE-MINDED.

will meet the problem of the taxpayer, so- it is in order to begin as soon as possible easily and played on the eleven throughciety and the unfortunate individual relat- on the farm colony plan that Dr. Little out his college course. Subsequently he ing to feeble-mindedness. This plan as- proposes to use his present appropriation returned to Hanover and began his studies sumes that segregation is to be under- on the group of "improvable" boys. taken on a large scale, that it will be nec- In another sense, Dr. Little meant that it days before either the graduate rule of essary, and attempts to solve the problem would have to be "a live place." He be- the four-year rule, and he played on the

the feeble-minded as of normal boys. Play

in the Medical School. This was in the

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